

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated July 12, 2005.

Applicant's agent thanks Examiner Colin M. LaRose for extending a telephonic interview on July 26, 2005 concerning the subject Office Action. In that interview, Applicant's agent agreed to amend the claims as suggested in the Office Action Allowable Subject Matter. Furthermore, Applicant's agent proposed including claim 39 as allowable subject matter, and Examiner LaRose agreed with that proposal.

Applicant herein corrects informalities of the disclosure paragraphs 6-9 to recite the statement of the invention as claimed in claim 26. No new matter has been added.

Claims 29 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph due to insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant herein amends claims 29 and 36 to properly depend from claims 26 and 33, respectively, which provide the proper antecedent basis.

Claims 31 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph due to insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant herein amends claims 31 and 38 to properly depend from claims 26 and 33, respectively, which provide the proper antecedent basis.

Claims 25, 27, 28, 30, 32, 34, 35, 37, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,841,903 by Kikuchi. Applicant herein cancelled claims 25, 27, 28, 30, 32, 34, 35 and 37, but not claim 39.

According to the Office Action, claims 26 and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant herein amended claims 26 and 33 as independent claims to include all of the limitations of claims 25 and 32, respectively, from which claims 26 and 33, respectively, depend. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 26 and 33 are now in condition of allowance.

According to the Office Action, claims 29 and 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if (1) claim 26 is rewritten in independent form, and (2) claims 29 and 31 are rewritten to each depend from claim 26 in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicant herein amended claim 26 as independent claim, and claims 29 and 31 are amended to each depend from claim 26. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of amended claims 29 and 31.

According to the Office Action, claims 36 and 38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if (1) claim 33 is rewritten in independent form, and (2) claims 36 and 38 are rewritten to each depend from claim 33 in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicant herein amended claim 33 as independent claim, and claims 36 and 38 are amended to each depend from claim 33. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of amended claims 36 and 38.

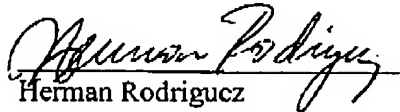
Concerning claim 39, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 39 since claim 39 is not anticipated by Kikuchi. Claims 26 and 33 as amended contain the allowable subject matter as indicated in the Office Action. Program product claim 39 contains similar limitations to allowable amended claims 26 and 33, thus claim 39 is also allowable.

CONCLUSION

For reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims 26, 29, 31, 33, 36, 38 and 39 are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present invention is respectfully requested.

Applicant's agent believes that this application is in condition of allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's agent at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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AGENT FOR APPLICANT